

OUNBLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

SUBMITTED BY

J.J.A. REID, T.D., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



Council Offices,
6 North Street,
Oundle.

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OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Year Ended 31st December, 1960.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report on the health of Oundle during the year 1960.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population: Estimated mid-year population - 3,100.

Birth Rate (corrected): 17.3 per 1,000 (England & Wales - 17.1).

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate Live Births.....	18	18
Illegitimate Live Births.....	-	1
Stillbirths.....	-	-

Death Rate (corrected): 6.5 per 1,000 (England & Wales - 11.5).

Total Deaths = 42.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	19	23
Heart Disease.....	25 deaths	
Cancer.....	7 deaths	
Influenza.....	3 deaths	
Other causes.....	7 deaths	

Once again, the statistics present a satisfactory commentary on the state of health of Oundle. The birth rate is higher than in 1959, as is the death rate, but the small numbers involved are inadequate to form the basis of statistically significant deductions. It will be observed that the birth rate corresponds closely to that of England and Wales, while the death rate remains substantially below the national figure.

The pattern of causes of death follows that of 1959, and there is no need for any comment beyond that which was contained in the report for that year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications:

Measles.....	2
Whooping Cough.....	-
Scarlet Fever.....	-
Pneumonia.....	-
Tuberculosis.....	-
Food Poisoning.....	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-
Sonne Dysentery.....	17

The only infectious diseases to which reference must be made are those involving infections of the bowel. One case of food poisoning occurred in an elderly patient at Glapthorne Road Hospital. Despite full enquiries, no source of this was found and no others were infected. The patient was transferred to Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, where she made a rapid recovery.

In the Spring there was a small outbreak of Sonne dysentery. This is the commonest form of dysentery found in Britain and it can prove very troublesome, particularly where, as in the present instance, children are involved. None was seriously ill and again, all made satisfactory recoveries. Visits were paid to premises which might have been involved in the spread of this disease and preventive measures were taken. It cannot be over-emphasised that, if outbreaks of this kind are to be prevented, a high standard of personal hygiene is essential. In particular, there should be adequate facilities for hand-washing after the W.C. has been used. This is a matter in which many otherwise cleanly people are lax. Incidentally, it is disappointing to see that in many modern houses the W.C. is still being installed in rooms which have no hand-washing facilities.

IMMUNISATION

The following figures have kindly been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Number of immunisations carried out.

	<u>Diphtheria</u>							Total	Booster
	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-9	10-14		
Diphtheria									
Immunisation only.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Combined Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough.	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	6	24
Combined Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough/Tetanus	17	1	2	-	-	-	-	20	3
Total Diphtheria Immunisations	20	1	2	-	-	3	-	26	37
<u>Whooping Cough only</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of Children who have completed a full
course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31.12.60. i.e. Born in year	Under 1. 1960	1. 1959	2. 1958	3. 1957	4. 1956	5-9 1951- 1955	10-14 1946- 1950	Total Under 15.
Number Immunised	7	22	34	18	27	128	131	367

Poliomyelitis

Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-9	10-14	Total	15 and over	Third inj's all ages.
6	23	4	1	-	-	2	36	128	212

Smallpox.

	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2-4.</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary	3	8	1	-	-	12
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	-

According to the latest available figures, only about two thirds of children in Northamptonshire have been immunised against diphtheria. It must never be forgotten that diphtheria is a deadly disease and that it has only been through immunisation that it has been brought under control in the last 20 years. Unfortunately, a new generation of mothers is growing up who have never seen the horrible effects of diphtheria, and it is amongst this group that there appears to be laxity in bringing children for immunisation. It will have been seen from the press that cases of diphtheria and deaths from the disease have recently occurred in various parts of the country. Should the disease strike in Oundle, then those parents who have neglected their responsibilities towards their children would have only themselves to blame if the children were killed or maimed by the disease. Immunisation is readily available through general practitioners or at the Child Welfare Centre. I hope that the Council will support my call to a minority of the parents of Oundle to remedy their neglect before it is too late.

From the table, it will be observed that, in the case of infants, the majority are now receiving "triple" immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. This last disease, commonly referred to as lockjaw, causes needless deaths throughout the country every year. The micro-organism concerned usually enters the body through a wound, often of a minor nature, and the resulting disease is a very serious one. Immunisation against tetanus is most effective and, as it can be carried out by means of a vaccine which also protects against diphtheria and whooping cough, this triple vaccine is now being used in all County Council clinics. By these means it is hoped ultimately to build up a high level of resistance to tetanus throughout the community.

Immunisation against poliomyelitis presents a fairly satisfactory picture, for the public is fully aware of the dangers of that disease.

Smallpox vaccination, as was indicated in last year's report, continues to be unsatisfactory.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH EDUCATION.

This body provides a wide selection of health education material and services to local authorities, and the various Local Authority Associations have recommended their constituent members to support the Council in its work of educating the public in all matters of health. The subscription for Oundle is small but it is gratifying to observe that the Council decided to support this organisation from April 1960. It is only by all authorities, both large and small, doing so that the Central Council for Health Education is able to continue its valuable work.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Officer of Health: J.J.A. Reid, T.D., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Water Engineer & Public Health Inspector: R.E.T. Chinnery,
Cert. S.I.B.

District Nurses: Miss L.L. Misson and Miss E.M. Cates.

Health Visitor: Miss K. Pulley.

WATER SUPPLY

As will be observed from the Report of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, the water supply was in all ways satisfactory throughout the year. Samples from the pumping station and from supply taps in various parts of the town were all reported as bacteriologically very satisfactory and a chemical analysis gave the following result:-

Reaction.....	pH 7.1			
Chloride.....	5.4	parts per 100,000		
Ammonia (Free and Saline).....	0.0048	"	"	"
Ammonia (Albuminoid).....	0.0120	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs at 37°C.....	0.0957	"	"	"
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen).....	0.50	"	"	"
Nitrites.....	absent			
Poisonous Metals.....	absent			
Total Hardness.....	37.2	"	"	"

SEWERAGE

As reported by the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, a new disposal works is required and work on this should begin in 1961.

FACTORY ACT

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health. (Inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	17	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	1	1	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	18	18	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found - None.

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) Nil.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

J.J.A. REID.

Medical Officer of Health.

May 1961.

OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

SUBMITTED BY

R.E.T. CHINNERY, F.F.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.,

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Council Offices,
6 North Street,
OUNDLE



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OUNDLÉ URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC

HEALTH INSPECTOR

Year Ending 31st December, 1960.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my Third Annual Report upon Sanitary Conditions in the Urban District, and a summary of the work carried out by my department during the year under review.

1. WATER SUPPLIES

The supply and distribution of water supplies throughout the Urban District was maintained to a satisfactory standard throughout the year.

The completion, in 1959, of the 9" link main from the Council's reservoir at Biggin Hill to the Glapthorne Road continued to prove its necessity and usefulness in restoring and maintaining adequate pressure in certain areas where difficulties had been experienced. The new main will also provide adequate supplies to be taken to new housing development which is taking place in the Cotterstock Road and Glapthorne Road areas.

Samples of water are taken regularly from the mains and from the Council's Pumping Station and all bacteriological reports were 'very satisfactory.' Frequent checks are also made of the residual chlorine content of the water as supplied to the consumers.

The arrangements whereby water is purchased in bulk from the Oundle and Thrapston Rural District Council to augment this Council's own supply were continued. The maximum utilisation was made of the supply available at the Barnwell Road pumping stations, thus reducing considerably the amount of water having to be purchased.

Close attention to waste prevention, both on consumers' premises and by the repair or replacement of faulty valves, meters and other fittings resulted in an overall reduction in the consumption of water during the year, despite the number of houses built and additional water consuming fittings provided in existing houses.

NENE AND OUSE WATER BOARD

Definite steps were taken towards the formation of the new Board, to take place early in 1961. The constituent authorities also decided to oppose the proposed Ouse Water Board Scheme, on financial grounds, as they were satisfied that the Brampton intake scheme proposed by the Nene and Ouse Water Board would provide all the water needed in that Board's area for the foreseeable future at a much lower cost than would be incurred by enforced participation in the Diddington Reservoir scheme proposed by the Ouse Water Board.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Further delay was experienced in the commencement of work upon the urgently required new disposal works, owing to the necessity of serving a Compulsory Purchase Order upon the owner of land required. At the time of making this Report, however, the Contractors have actually begun operations.

Housing Development during the year and in hand for forthcoming years enhances the necessity for the new disposal works and it is fortunate indeed that a start has not been further delayed.

3. HOUSING (a) Provision of New Houses by Local Authority

The 20 flats, 8 bungalows and 8 houses comprising the completion, stage three of the Rock Road Housing Scheme were just completed by the end of the year.

(b) Private Development

Five houses built by private owners were completed, the same number as in the previous year, a figure far from high enough to meet the known demand, or to allow for natural development. The reason for this small rate of development is the non-existence of building sites provided with essential services and the Council, in order to overcome this difficulty sold a portion of the Allotment Field in New Road, Oundle, to a firm of estate developers, who will build houses for sale here as soon as sufficient progress has been made with the new sewerage scheme to provide drainage to the site. The same Firm have purchased an adjoining site from the owner and at the end of the year all necessary preliminaries were completed, to allow the building of 24 houses to commence, as a pilot scheme. Sewerage for this site has been made available.

The Council have also taken other steps to ensure that more land will become available for private development when required.

(c) Unfit Houses

Further progress was made with regard to the redevelopment of Inkerman Yard and the frontage to West Street. The whole of the properties were purchased from the owner by agreement. Owing to the prohibitive cost of reconditioning it was not found possible to preserve certain properties listed as being of architectural or historic interest and the Council adopted a scheme for the demolition of the 27 unfit houses concerned and for the redevelopment of the site by the building of one and two-bedroomed bungalows, principally intended for old people. All the 27 houses referred to were the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders.

The Council also purchased two other unfit cottages, occupied as one house, the subject of a Demolition Order, and initiated the purchase of four other unfit cottages, with a view to demolition and suitable redevelopment.

(d) Grants for Conversion or Improvements: Housing and House Purchase Act, 1959

Applications for two Standard Grants and one Discretionary Grant only were received during the year. Every opportunity is taken to encourage applications and the response is disappointing. It must be said, however, that a considerable amount

3. of modernisation and improvement work is carried out by owners of property at their expense and it seems that certain restrictions imposed when a grant is made discourages applications. One application was, in fact, withdrawn when the implication of these restrictions was realised by the applicant.

4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service was maintained efficiently throughout the year, the larger vehicle proving its worth. At the request of the Oundle and Thrapston Rural District Council the disposal site was made available for refuse from certain parishes in the rural district while that Council were re-organising their services.

The salvage and sale of waste paper, cardboard, etc., continued to bring in a useful revenue to offset the cost of this service, and the co-operation of traders in the town is much appreciated.

I would like to repeat that householders could bring increased revenue to the Council and assist in the difficult task of keeping costs and rates at a reasonable level, by preserving old papers etc., for collection.

5. PUBLIC BATHING

The Governors of Oundle School again permitted the use of the School Swimming Pool by schoolchildren of the town generally during the summer holiday period, and tribute is paid to the many volunteers who maintain the necessary supervision.

No progress can be reported towards the raising of funds to provide a public swimming pool, although the Council have undertaken to provide a site. It would appear that this proposal, if it is to be realised will have to be provided out of the rate fund; this will have to receive careful consideration having regard to the Council's present heavy capital commitments.

6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Much time and expense has again been spent upon removing crude writings and drawings from walls and ceilings and in repairing wanton damage. Every window has been broken again and again until recourse had to be made to filling in window openings with glass bricks and removal of a glass panellled door. Coin locks are frequently forced open and the contents stolen; one lock was stolen complete. Direction signs have also been forced off the wall and stolen.

The Police seem powerless to stop these happenings which not only result in a waste of time and materials on repairs, but in unnecessary expense to the Council and ratepayers.

7. CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD

Both were maintained to a satisfactory standard, although weather conditions and labour difficulties prevented keeping the appearance of the Church Yard to as high a standard as is desired.

During the year the amenities of a hot water system and bath and other improvements were carried out at the Curators Lodge which now provides very satisfactory living accommodation.

8. SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses licensed in the Urban District.

8. Regular visits are paid to food premises, particularly during the summer months, and the co-operation of the occupiers is appreciated in maintaining a high standard of hygiene generally.

During the year the following amounts of unsound food were voluntarily surrendered:-

Corned Beef	..	..	..	18lbs.
Ox Kidney	.	..	..	12lbs.
Ox tongue	.	..	..	10lbs.
Pig's kidney	..	..	..	3lbs.
Shoulder Ham	.	..	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

9. Disinfection, Disinfestation

No terminal disinfection after Infectious Disease was necessary.

Rat infestations continue to be reported or discovered and all cases are dealt with immediately. No serious or incurable infestations occurred.

10. GENERAL

Following the appointment of a full-time shorthand-typist maintenance of a more efficient office routine has been practicable. With this minimum staff, difficulties are naturally encountered during holidays or in times of sickness but it was found possible to obtain temporary staff when required.

Several changes took place in the personnel of the outside staff, but replacements were found without difficulty.

This Report can only touch briefly on certain important aspects of the Council's work and no statistics or financial details are included as these have all been presented to the Council at the appropriate time and the compiling of such figures would place a very severe strain on the small office staff.

The year has again been a busy one. All the projects completed or in hand involve considerable preparatory and background work, particularly when it is necessary to secure Ministry approval.

Once again I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of Committees and to all the other Members of the Council for their continual support and helpfulness during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. T. CHINNERY,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.